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2624

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/739,373

Applicant(s)

HOSODA, YUICHI

Examiner

Thierry L Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 12/9/04.
- Claims 1-36 are pending in application.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tomory (U.S. 5815764).

Regarding claim 1, Tomory discloses a data processing apparatus (workstation, fig. 2) which can transmit a printing job to an image recording apparatus (printer with plurality of bins, fig. 1, col. 8, lines 15-67) having plural holding units each capable of holding plural sheets or an image recording apparatus capable of connecting with an option apparatus having plural holding units, said data processing apparatus comprising:

- holding unit name registration means (workstation for storing plurality of registered users name for plurality of holding bins, figs. 3-9, col. 11, lines 30-55 and col. 12, lines 25-60) for accepting, in order to register plural discrimination names including a user name and names of plural groups (each holding bin is assigned to user and/or users and groups, figs. 3-9, col. 9, lines 1-32 and col. 11, lines 32-55) to which a user corresponding to the user name belongs for each of the plural holding units of said image recording apparatus, designation of the user name and the names of the plural groups to which the user corresponding to the user name belongs, and for transmitting the designation content to said image recording apparatus (discharging printed sheets to assigned users/groups, fig. 5, cols. 11-12);
- holding unit name capture means (workstation for storing and capturing plurality of registered users name, fig. 2) for capturing the plural discrimination names registered (discriminating

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registered users name, fig. 5) to each of the holding units of said image recording apparatus, from said image recording apparatus; and

- job creation means (workstation for creating print jobs, fig. 2) for accepting, when creating the printing job, designation that the plural discrimination names captured by said holding unit name capture means are set as sheet discharge addresses of the printing job, and actually creating the printing job including the accepted sheet discharge address (discharging printed sheets to assigned users/groups, fig. 5, cols. 11-12) designation by the plural discrimination names.
- wherein said job creation means enables to set (user interface for selectively sets a designated bins with respect to each job, figs. 3-11), selectively, the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the user name (i.e. "Paul" is assigned to bin 1, fig. 5, col. 13, lines 60 to col. 14, lines 2 and col. 15, lines 24-50) and the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name (i.e., bin 3 is assigned for workgroup, fig. 5, col. 15, lines 24-50) with respect to each job.

Regarding claim 2, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said holding unit name registration means also accepts designation of an E-mail address (col. 13, lines 28-40) of the user corresponding to the designated user name, and transmits the designation content including the E-mail address to said image recording apparatus.

Regarding claim 3, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discrimination name is information representing an owner (fig. 5) who exclusively uses the holding unit.

Regarding claim 4, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said holding unit name registration means inputs or selectively designates the user name and the names of the plural groups (fig. 5, cols. 11-12) to which the user corresponding to the user name belongs in order to register the plural discrimination names for each of the holding units of said image recording apparatus.

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Regarding claim 5, Tomory further discloses a data processing apparatus (workstation, fig. 2) which can transmit a printing job to an image recording apparatus having plural holding units (printer with plurality of bins, fig. 1, col. 8, lines 15-67) or an image recording apparatus capable of connecting with an option apparatus having plural holding units, said data processing apparatus comprising:

- holding unit name capture means (workstation for storing plurality of registered users name for plurality of holding bins, figs. 3-9, col. 11, lines 30-55 and col. 12, lines 25-60) for capturing from said image recording apparatus plural discrimination names registered (discriminating registered users name, fig. 5) to each of the holding units of said image recording apparatus, the plural discrimination names including a user name and names of plural groups to which a user corresponding to the user name belongs (discharging printed sheets to assigned users/groups, fig. 5, cols. 11-12); and
- job creation means for accepting, when creating the printing job (workstation for creating print jobs, fig. 2), designation that the plural discrimination names captured by said holding unit name capture means are set as sheet discharge addresses of the printing job (discharging printed sheets to assigned users/groups, fig. 5, cols. 11-12), and actually creating the printing job including the accepted sheet discharge address (print job with bins designated, col. 15, lines 25-50) designation by the plural discrimination names,
- wherein said job creation means enables to set (user interface for selectively sets a designated bins with respect to each job, figs. 3-11), selectively, the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the user name (i.e. "Paul" is assigned to bin 1, fig. 5, col. 13, lines 60 to col. 14, lines 2 and col. 15, lines 24-50) and the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name (i.e., bin 3 is assigned for workgroup, fig. 5, col. 15, lines 24-50) with respect to each job.

Regarding claim 6, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising: sheet discharge information capture means for capturing sheet discharge end information (completion message, col. 12, lines 1-10) and holding unit monitoring information notified by said image recording apparatus (col. 12, lines 1-10); and display means for displaying a message (the returned message further displaying to a user, col. 12, lines 1-10) to the user on

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the basis of the sheet discharge end information and the holding unit monitoring information captured by said sheet discharge information capture means.

Regarding claim 7, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said sheet discharge information capture means captures E-mail addresses registered (registered e-mail address, col. 13, lines 20-40 and col. 15, lines 5-50) to all the holding units to which the sheet discharge was performed, when a sheet discharge end notification (col. 12, lines 1-10) of the printing job is received, and transmission means is provided to transmit an E-mail notifying the sheet discharge end to the E-mail addresses captured by said sheet discharge information capture means.

Regarding claims 8-9, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said job creation means accepts designation whether or not an E-mail notification after printing end should be performed (e-mail notification via using Microsoft Mail, col. 12, lines 1-10 and col. 20-40), and adds the designation whether or not the E-mail notification should be performed to the printing job on the basis of this designation.

Regarding claim 10, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the E-mail includes information such as a name of the user designating the printing job (inherently, notification is sent back to a user who submitted a print job, therefore, it inherently includes his/her user name), a content of the printing job, the number of printing in the printing job, the number of output copies in the printing job, a date when the printing job was output, and information concerning the image recording apparatus from which the printing job was output (printing status, col. 12, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 11, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said transmission means transmits the E-mail to the E-mail address (e-mail address stored in database, col. 13, lines 20-40) of the user corresponding to the user name registered to the holding unit to which the printing job was discharged (for example, user "Paul" is having an email address associated with using Microsoft Mail) or the E-mail address of each user who

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belongs to the group corresponding to the group name registered to the holding unit to which the printing job was discharged.

Regarding claim 12, Tomory further discloses an image recording apparatus (printer with plurality of bins, fig. 1, col. 8, lines 15-67) which can sort plural printing jobs received from plural superior apparatuses (workstation, fig. 2) through a predetermined communication medium and discharge the sorted printing jobs to plural holding units, said image recording apparatus comprising:

- registration means (plurality of registered users name for plurality of holding bins, figs. 3-9, col. 11, lines 30-55 and col. 12, lines 25-60) for registering in a memory plural discrimination names to each of the holding units, the plural discrimination names including a user name and names of plural groups (discharging printed sheets to assigned users/groups, fig. 5, cols. 11-12) to which a user corresponding to the user name belongs and being transmitted from each of said superior apparatuses or directly designated from an operation unit;
- discrimination name notification means (notification, fig. 11) for notifying said superior apparatus of the plural discrimination names registered by said registration means, in accordance with a request from said superior apparatus; and
- sheet discharge control means (discharging printed sheets to assigned users/groups, fig. 5, cols. 11-12) for discharging the printing job to which the discrimination name has been designated to the holding unit to which the discrimination name same as the discrimination name designated as a sheet discharge address to the printing job has been designated,
- wherein said image recording apparatus enables (printer for accepting the designated bins with respect to each job which assigned by users, figs. 3-11) to accept the printing job in which the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the user name (i.e. "Paul" is assigned to bin 1, fig. 5, col. 13, lines 60 to col. 14, lines 2 and col. 15, lines 24-50) and the designation of the sheet discharge based on the group name (i.e., bin 3 is assigned for workgroup, fig. 5, col. 15, lines 24-50) are selectively set with respect to each job.

Regarding claim 13, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising sheet discharge end notification means (completion notification, col. 12, lines 1-10) for notifying said superior apparatus of the end of an image recording process of the printing job, after the image recording process of the printing job was ended by said sheet discharge control means; and holding unit monitoring means for always monitoring a state of each of the holding units (updating the status of each bin, col. 12, lines 1-10), updating the state, and if necessary notifying said superior apparatus of a change of the holding unit state.

Regarding claim 14, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said registration means stores a discrimination name registration content including an E-mail address notified from said superior apparatus in the memory, and E-mail transmission means is provided to transmit an E-mail notifying (e-mail notification via using Microsoft Mail, col. 12, lines 1-10 and col. 12, lines 20-40) the sheet discharge end in accordance with E-mail addresses registered to the respective holding units to which the printing job was discharged, after an image recording process of the printing job was ended by said sheet discharge control means.

Regarding claim 15, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said E-mail transmission means controls whether or not an E-mail notification should be performed, on the basis of an instruction whether or not the E-mail notification (e-mail notification via using Microsoft Mail, col. 12, lines 1-10 and col. 13, lines 20-40) designated to the printing job should be performed.

Regarding claim 16, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said registration means stores a discrimination name registration content including an E-mail address (email address, col. 13, lines 20-40) in the memory, and said sheet discharge end notification means notifies said superior apparatus of the E-mail addresses registered to all the holding units to which the printing job was discharged, after the image recording process of the printing job was ended by said sheet discharge control means.



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Regarding claim 17, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the E-mail includes information such as a name of the user designating the printing job, a content of the printing job, the number of printing in the printing job, the number of output copies in the printing job, a date when the printing job was output, and information concerning the image recording apparatus from which the printing job was output (printing status, col. 12, lines 1-10), and said E-mail transmission means transmits the E-mail to the E-mail address (email address, col. 13, lines 20-40) of the user corresponding to the user name registered to the holding unit to which the printing job was discharged or the E-mail address of the user who belongs to the group corresponding to the group name registered to the holding unit to which the printing job was discharged.

Regarding claim 18, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the discrimination name is information representing an owner (i.e. "Paul", col. 13, lines 20-40) who exclusively uses the holding unit, and is obtained by directly inputting or selecting a name according to a user's usage by the user on said superior apparatus or said operation unit.

Regarding claim 19, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 12, wherein plural holding units are provided on the body of said image recording apparatus (printer with plurality of bins, fig. 1) or an option apparatus having plural holding units is connectable.

Regarding claim 20: Claim 20 is the methods corresponding the apparatus and recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 1; therefore, claim 20 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 21: Claim 21 is the methods corresponding the apparatus and recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 5; therefore, claim 21 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 5 above.

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Regarding claim 22: Claim 22 is the methods corresponding the apparatus and recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 12; therefore, claim 22 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 12 above.

Regarding claim 23: Claim 23 recites limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 1 except computer readable memory for storing computer programs. All computers/printers have some type of computer readable medium (i.e. print server, fig. 1) for storing computer programs, hence claim 23 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claim 1.

Regarding claim 24: Claim 24 recites limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 5 except computer readable memory for storing computer programs. All computers/printers have some type of computer readable medium (i.e. print server, fig. 1) for storing computer programs, hence claim 24 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claim 5.

Regarding claim 25: Claim 25 recites limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 12 except computer readable memory for storing computer programs. All computers/printers have some type of computer readable medium (i.e. print server, fig. 1) for storing computer programs, hence claim 25 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claim 12.

Regarding claim 26, Tomory further discloses an image recording apparatus (printer, fig. 1) which can connect with a sheet processing apparatus having plural storage units (plurality of bins, fig. 1) capable of storing sheets, comprising:

- reception means (network, fig. 2) for receiving data including image data from a remote data processing apparatus (i.e. workstation, fig. 2);
- image recording means (i.e. printer, fig. 1) for recording an image based on the received image data, on a sheet; and

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- control means (controller 100, fig. 1) for performing control, according as first data instructing to distribute the sheets to the storage unit belonging to which of plural groups (plurality of assigned bins for individual and group, fig. 5) of the grouped storage units is included in the data received from said remote data processing apparatus, to distribute the sheets (i.e. bins, fig. 1 and 5) on which the image data from said remote data processing apparatus has been recorded to the storage unit belonging to the group according to the first data,
- wherein said control means (controller 100, fig. 1) enables said image recording apparatus to accept the printing job in which the first data is selectively set with respect to each job (print job with assigned bins, col. 15, lines 25-50).

Regarding claim 27, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 26, wherein, when second data discriminatingly instructing for each storage unit to distribute the sheets to which of the plural storage units is included in the data received (col. 15, lines 25-50) from said remote data processing apparatus together with the first data, said control means performs control to distribute the sheets on which the image data from said remote data processing apparatus has been recorded to the storage units belonging to the group (distributed printed with according to assigned bins, fig. 5) according to the first data and the storage unit according to the second data.

Regarding claim 28, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 26, wherein, according as the first data is included in the data received from said remote data processing apparatus, the image recording of the image data of a same page is performed plural times without receiving the image data of the same page from said remote data processing apparatus plural times (inherently, all print job includes quantity to be printed).

Regarding claim 29, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising notification means (job notification, col. 12, lines 1-10) for notifying each user belonging to the group according to the first data and a user according to the second data that the sheets were distributed.

Regarding claim 30, Tomory further discloses a data processing apparatus (i.e. workstation as shown in fig. 2) which can transmit data including image data to be recorded, to an image recording apparatus (printer, fig. 1) capable of connecting with a sheet processing apparatus having plural storage units capable of storing sheets, said data processing apparatus comprising: generation means (i.e. workstation for generating a print job, fig. 2) for generating first data based on an operator's instruction for instructing to distribute the sheets to the storage units belonging to which of plural groups of the grouped storage units (a print job includes bins assignment for printed page, fig. 5, col. 15, lines 25-50); and transmission means (network, fig. 2) for correlating the first data with the image data and transmitting the correlated data to said image recording apparatus.

Regarding claim 31, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said generation means can generate, together with the first data, second data based on an operator's instruction for discriminately instructing for each storage unit to distribute the sheets to which of the plural storage units (a print job includes bins assignment for printed page, fig. 5, col. 15, lines 25-50), and said transmission means (network, fig. 2) can make as the data to be transmitted to said image recording apparatus a set of the first data and the second data, correlate the set of the data with the image data, and transmit the correlated data.

Regarding claim 32, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising capture means for capturing storage unit information output from said image recording apparatus and previously set for the plural storage units (fig. 5), in accordance with a request from said data processing apparatus (col. 12, lines 1-20); and display control means (workstation includes a monitor for displaying messages, fig. 2) for causing a display unit to display a screen based on the captured information, wherein said transmission means can make the set of the first data and the second data both generated based on the operator's instructions input through said screen as the data to be transmitted to said image recording apparatus, correlate the set of the data with the image data, and transmit the correlated data.

Regarding claim 33: Claim 33 is the methods corresponding the apparatus and recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 26; therefore, claim 33 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 26 above.

Regarding claim 34: Claim 34 recites limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 26 except computer readable memory for storing computer programs. All computers/printers have some type of computer readable medium (i.e. print server, fig. 1) for storing computer programs, hence claim 34 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claim 26.

Regarding claim 35: Claim 35 is the methods corresponding the apparatus and recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 30; therefore, claim 35 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 30 above.

Regarding claim 36: Claim 36 recites limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 26 except computer readable memory for storing computer programs. All computers/printers have some type of computer readable medium (i.e. print server, fig. 1) for storing computer programs, hence claim 36 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claim 30.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, see page 25, filed on 12/9/04, with respect to claims 10 & 17 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejection of claim 10 & 17 has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments filed 12/9/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

- Regarding claims 1, 5, 12, and 20-25, the applicants argued the cited prior art of record (US 5815764 to Tomory) fails to teach and/or suggest the newly added limitations "job creation means enable selective setting of the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the user

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name and the designation of the sheet discharge based on the group name with respect to each job”.

In response, the examiner first notes the applicant that such argued limitations are not previously cited in claims 1, 5, 12, and 20-25. However, Tomory explicitly teaches job creation means enables to set (user interface for selectively sets a designated bins with respect to each job, figs. 3-11), selectively, the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the user name (i.e. “Paul” is assigned to bin 1, fig. 5, col. 13, lines 60 to col. 14, lines 2 and col. 15, lines 24-50) and the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name (i.e., bin 3 is assigned for workgroup, fig. 5, col. 15, lines 24-50) with respect to each job.

- Regarding claims 26, 30, and 33-36, the applicants argued the cited prior art of record (US 5815764 to Tomory) fails to teach and/or suggest the newly added limitations “the control means enables the image recording apparatus to accept the printing job in which the first data is selectively set with respect to each job”.

In response, the examiner first notes the applicant that such argued limitations are not previously cited in claims 26, 30, and 33-36. However, Tomory explicitly teaches wherein said control means (controller 100, fig. 1) enables said image recording apparatus (printer, fig. 1) to accept the printing job (print job transmitted from workstation via a network as shown in fig. 2) in which the first data is selectively set with respect to each job (print job with assigned bins by users, col. 15, lines 25-50).

### *Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- U.S. 5898592 to Salgado et al, discloses the same invention as described by Tomory.
- U.S. 6292267 to Mori et al, discloses assigning users/groups to holding units of forming image apparatus.
- EP 936536 to Sugaya, teaches a method/apparatus for assigning users/groups to a holding units of the image forming apparatus and to incorporate such assignment within the print job.
- US 6141111 to Kato, teaches a method/apparatus for assigning a users/groups to a holding units of the image forming apparatus and to incorporate such assignment within the print job.

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**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

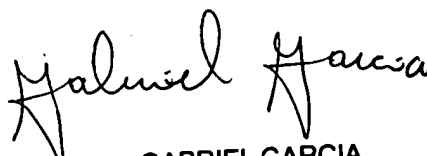
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L Pham whose telephone number is (571) 2727439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham



GABRIEL GARCIA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER